

Grade 8 Sample Test Prompt

Conventions

People run for elected offices, from the President of the United States to class officers in a school. You are running for class president for your grade level.

Write an essay convincing your classmates that you are the best choice for president.

Your writing should:

- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- State reasons why you would make a good class president.
- Include details that support your reasons.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

CONVENTIONS

<p>6</p> <p>The writing demonstrates exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong control of conventions; manipulation of conventions may occur for stylistic effect. • strong, effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text. • correct spelling, even of more difficult words. • paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure. • correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style. • skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece. • little or no need for editing. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writing demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that they do not impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong control of conventions. • effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text. • correct spelling, even of more difficult words. • paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure. • correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor. • correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style. • skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece. • little need for editing. 	<p>4</p> <p>The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Minor errors, while perhaps noticeable, do not impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • control over conventions used, although a wide range is not demonstrated. • correct end-of-sentence punctuation, internal punctuation may sometimes be incorrect. • spelling that is usually correct, especially on common words. • basically sound paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure. • correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor. • occasional lapses in correct grammar and usage; problems are not severe enough to distort meaning or confuse the reader. • moderate need for editing.
<p>3</p> <p>The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Errors begin to impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some control over basic conventions; the text may be too simple to reveal mastery. • end-of-sentence punctuation that is usually correct; however, internal punctuation contains frequent errors. • spelling errors that distract the reader; misspelling of common words occurs. • paragraphs that sometimes run together or begin at ineffective places. • capitalization errors. • errors in grammar and usage that do not block meaning but do distract the reader. • significant need for editing. 	<p>2</p> <p>The writing demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. Frequent, significant errors impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little control over basic conventions. • many end-of-sentence punctuation errors; internal punctuation contains frequent errors. • spelling errors that frequently distract the reader; misspelling of common words often occurs. • paragraphs that often run together or begin in ineffective places. • capitalization that is inconsistent or often incorrect. • errors in grammar and usage that interfere with readability and meaning. • substantial need for editing. 	<p>1</p> <p>Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. In fact, the severity and frequency of errors are so overwhelming that the reader finds it difficult to focus on the message and must reread for meaning. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very limited skill in using conventions. • basic punctuation (including end-of-sentence punctuation) that tends to be omitted, haphazard, or incorrect. • frequent spelling errors that significantly impair readability. • paragraph breaks that may be highly irregular or so frequent (every sentence) that they bear no relation to the organization of the text. • capitalization that appears to be random. • a need for extensive editing.

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Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

Class mate of my school
if you were to vote for
me I will try my best to
some of the things you
would want at our school
like if you wanted longer
lunch hours I would try to
get it for you I would
also try to get new elters
like video games class were
you would be able to
play any video game you
wanted to play.

Score point 1 -- Frequent spelling errors. Basic punctuation (including end-of-sentence punctuation) tends to be omitted. There is a need for extensive editing.

Grade 8 Writing Conventions – Score Point 2

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

My name is _____ and I like you to vote for me
for class president. I'm smart, well rounded, have respect for my
student classmate and Teacher if you vote for me you won't be sorry.
I will do alot of stuff to help the school. Like help with the student
counler to raise money to go to fiel trip or. Get better Food in the
cafeteria and i'll but more vinding machines or get more eqiment
for PE and get more school supplies for the classmate. So if you
Want a good leader then pick me _____ for 8th grade
president

Score point 2 -- The writing demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. There are many end-of-sentence and internal punctuation errors. Misspelling of common words often occurs: "counler" for council, "vinding" for vending, "fiel" for field.

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

I think that I would be the best Because I have never been in student council. I would also like to be in it so I can keep grades up. I would like to be in student council so I can be more intord with school. I think that it could be fun to be the class president Because you get to participate in more school stuff. you also get to field trips, car washes, and you get to do some cool fun raises.

I want to be the class president so I know when the dances are and when the field trips are and where we are going. It would also be fun because you get to work at the dances by selling stuff and setting up stuff. you also get to work at the other place at the dances. The first would be setting up the lights up for the dance.

I want to be in it because I like to go to car washes. and fundd raises. I think it would be cool Because you get to know the teacher better. I want to be in it so I can learn more things. I would be good.

Writing

FINAL COPY

for this because I would tell you when the
dances are and when the field trips
are.

Score point 3 -- The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions. Errors do begin to impede readability. Spelling errors (counsoir for council, trips for trips, whant for want, funed for fund) distract the reader. End-of-sentence punctuation is usually correct.



Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

If I am elected your class president I will do a lot, not just for you but for your school too. I am a very dedicated and willing person. I will listen to every thought and complaint you have, and do what I can to help. I am ready to do what it takes to satisfy you, your wants, needs, and even your teachers.

Some of my changes will benefit you, some your teachers, and mostly everyone. Such changes that will be made are repairing things when and where they need to be. I will try to get lunch extended at least five more minutes. Your lunch food will be better and you will have a better variety of food. You will have more privileges and you won't be bailed back from things you like to do, as long as they are appropriate. You will have better P.E. equipment for a better and more fun time. I will get better school supplies to like books. I will also get more after school activities.

I know if I am elected as your class president I will succeed in giving you and the whole school what they want. I know you will be very happy with the changes I make. So in conclusion I know that you know I am the perfect person to be your class president.

Score point 4 -- The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions. Minor errors (privileges for privileges, to for too) do not impede readability. Basically sound paragraph breaks; moderate need for editing.

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

I am running for class president. I know that I would be the best at this. I should be class president because I will do many different things for the class and school. I will make the class more fun and also have it very educational. Everyone will be so happy.

I also will make one class period on Fridays a fun day that also teaches you something. For example, you could play Jeopardy. I will create a day where you can wear clothes with the school's theme that day made by the student council. You will be rewarded with candy or something else for wearing the clothes of the theme.

I will make our school more organized too. I will make sure everyone is on task on the student council and our class. I will make this school a lot better than it used to be.

Everyone likes school dances. I will make the most fun school dances ever. Student council and I will make the themes for all the school dances. We also would like it if you would help us choose themes for the dance. Once in a while, student council would go to different classes and ask people what they

Writing

FINAL COPY

would like the theme to be. The teachers
won't choose. Only we will, all of us.

Everyone wants me to be president,
Why shouldn't you? If you choose me to
be class president, you will have the best
school year in your whole life. You will
have so much fun. Choose me for president.

Score point 5 -- The writing shows strong control of standard writing conventions. Errors are so few and minor that they do not impede readability. The writer uses paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure.



Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

I think I would be an excellent choice for your student body president. I am honest, loyal, trustworthy, hardworking, and willing to make many efforts to improve.

As class president, I will always tell the truth to my fellow classmates. I believe that trying to hide things is a bad choice and a sign of poor leadership. Trust is a quality which is essential between the president and students and will allow things to run smoothly.

I feel that being involved in sports, clubs, music, etc. and trying your hardest on tests are important. I will always encourage you to do these kinds of things. They create a wonderful reputation for the school and let other schools, as well as the community, know that we can be serious but also have fun at the same time.

It is extremely important to me that the student body has a say in what goes on at school. As president, I will ask for your opinions and ideas about rules or improvements we could make on the school. Students should be a part of what goes on every day, and I will make school so that students don't have to dread getting up and coming every morning.

Organizing fun activities in and outside of school would be one of my top priorities as president. It's really important to me that kids can have fun and be allowed to do things to get away from some of the pressures of school. Plus, it's a great way to meet new people!

As a student, I am aware that the school lunch is even better than the standard as many would like. If I became president, I would evaluate the options and see if we could get better tasting, healthier food in the

Page 5

Go On 

Grade 8 Writing Conventions – Score Point 6B

Writing

FINAL COPY

cafeteria

I believe I have many qualities of leadership and would be an awesome choice for president for the year 2009. Vote for me and I'll make this year a blast!

Score point 6 -- The writer demonstrates exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions. There is correct spelling, even of more difficult words: priorities, reputation, essential. There is little need for editing in a sufficiently long piece.

